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A MEMORIAL TO

DR. RICHARD T. GILLESPIE

RICHARD T. GILLESPIE, D.D., LL.D.

IN A VERY real sense Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur is, and always will be, a monument to Dr. Richard Thomas Gillespie. It was the leadership of this man of God which made possible the removal of the institution from its old campus to its new; it was his executive ability and his capacity for tireless labor that brought about the erection of the beautiful buildings which now constitute its home. For this school of the prophets he saw visions and dreamed dreams; to the shaping of its curriculum, to the strengthening of its faculty, and to the development of its student body he gave the utmost measure of his thought and devotion. Never did soldier on the field of battle more truly lay down his life for his country than this man did for the cause which he served, and this fact the sons and the friends of Columbia Seminary can never forget.

Although it is true that Columbia Seminary, however great it may become, will always remain in some

sense the lengthened shadow of Dr. Gillespie, it has been a cause for regret that except for a beautiful chapel pulpit, presented by the students of the Seminary in 1931, the institution has hitherto been able to establish no permanent memorial to his name. A mere suggestion is enough to bring instant recognition that it would be both fitting and desirable in every respect for a large endowment fund bearing his name to be established here so that through the income which this would constantly return for the institution, the name of Dr. Gillespie might be kept fresh and living in the minds of generations of students who did not know him in the flesh. It is, therefore, a ground for real joy that the opportunity has come for the beginning of a movement looking to that end.

On October 15, 1936, Mrs. Rosa Gillespie Jenkins, an aunt of Dr. Gillespie living in Sumter, S. C., was called to her eternal reward, leaving a will which made Columbia Seminary the residuary beneficiary of her estate. Let it be noted in this connection that in all probability it is only through the wills of many individuals that this institution can ever be adequately endowed, and that there is a crying need today for friends who will see the opportunity embodied in this method and will provide bequests, whether large or small, for the training of future ministers here. Surely there could be no better way in which to invest one's money in order to have it yield permanent returns for Church and for Country than that which Mrs. Jenkins took. Although her worldly wealth was not large she devoted all that she had to a great cause and Columbia Seminary will receive approximately three thousand dollars from her estate, of which the larger part has already been paid.

The legacy which Mrs. Jenkins left to the Seminary was not designated for any particular aspect of the institution's work but was to be used as needed. At the same time it is thought by some who knew her well that nothing could have pleased her better than to have had her gift become a memorial to her beloved nephew; for it was he who interested her in

the institution and led her to think of placing it in her will. In the light of this fact and in accordance with what seems to be most appropriate under the circumstances, her legacy is to be added to the permanent assets of the Seminary and designated as the beginning of a RICHARD T. GILLESPIE MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND.

This bulletin is issued not only to gratefully acknowledge the generous action of a deceased friend but also to challenge others to the completion of that noble work which she has so worthily begun. There is a large number of those who knew and loved Dr. Gillespie as students who will surely want to have a part in establishing a worthy memorial to his name. There are multitudes more who knew him through his work in the pastorate or through his broad contacts with the Church at large to whom this possibility should have a very great appeal. Columbia Seminary invites all who are interested to join with it in this undertaking. The many who cannot contribute largely but who would like to give something for the purpose may know that however small the gift is it will be acceptable and will be added to the fund. Surely there must be many others who can and will give more largely, and some also will wish to make provision for this memorial in their wills, so that it may grow in size with the passing of the years. It would seem appropriate, and in line with what Dr. Gillespie would himself have desired, that the income from the fund should for the present be designated by the Directors of the Seminary for meeting whatever needs of the institution may be most pressing, but it is hoped that the day will come when the amount will be large enough for it to constitute the endowment of a Chair which shall be known as the Richard T. Gillespie Professorship.

LET US ESTABLISH A GREAT MEMORIAL TO ONE WHO WAS TRULY A GREAT SERVANT OF GOD AND OF THE CHURCH.